Amendments to the Specification:

On page 9, please amend the first full paragraph as follows:

--The hyperpolymeric hemoglobins used pursuant to the invention are high molecular weight, intermolecularly crosslinked hemoglobins. The intermolecular crosslinking of hemoglobins is generally known and is described, for example, in DE ~~197 01 37~~ 197 01 037, EP 97 100790, DE ~~44 18 937~~ 44 18 973, DE 38 41 105, DE 37 14 351, DE 35 76 651. These known methods are therefore incorporated here.-

On pages 11-12, please amend the paragraph bridging pages 11-12 as follows:

--Very highly preferred are hyperpolymers that are prepared from deoxygenated swine hemoglobin with glutaraldehyde as the bifunctional crosslinker and polyethylene glycol as the covalently bonded macromolecule for surface modification; see DE ~~100 41 740~~ 100 31 740 A1 or DE ~~100 41 744~~ 100 31 744 A1. It has been found according to the invention that hemoglobin hyperpolymers with an (average) degree of polymerization that is large enough for it to be able to be introduced into the blood as an artificial oxygen carrier as a therapeutic blood additive (without increasing the blood volume more than slightly, see

above) are suitable if they produce only a certain low oncotic pressure in an aqueous electrolyte solution. This is related to the suitable average degree of polymerization (or to the proportional molecular weight) of the modified polymeric hemoglobin. This involves the number average, because the number of effective molecules is responsible for the oncotic pressure.--